



CONNECTICUT ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

TESTIMONY OF THE CONNECTICUT ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING BEFORE THE COMMERCE COMMITTEE OF THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE BILL 225: AN ACT AUTHORIZING AN UPDATED ADVANCED COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY STUDY

FEBRUARY 28, 2012

Chairman LeBeau, Chairman Berger and members of the committee, on behalf of the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering (CASE) please be advised that CASE is interested in conducting the study as proposed by Senate Bill 225.

For your information, CASE just completed a study that provided Guidelines for the Development of a Strategic Plan for Accessibility to and Adoption of Broadband Services in Connecticut for the Office of the Consumer Counsel and the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority. The study's findings and recommendations focused on five major areas including: state organization, establishing goals and progress metrics, broadband adoption, pole attachment and cell tower siting processes, and infrastructure and access. While the study identified that Broadband (*advanced communication technologies*) is an economic development engine, it did not include an analysis of the economic impact of investments in advanced communication technologies. For background purposes it may be useful for CASE to provide a briefing on this study's findings and recommendations for the Commerce Committee.

Therefore, the proposed study would be an opportunity to provide this additional information and assessment for the General Assembly for its use in gaining an understanding of the value and importance of investments in advanced communication technologies regarding economic development in the state of Connecticut.

The Academy is a non-profit organization patterned after the National Academy of Sciences and created by special act of the General Assembly in 1976 to provide expert guidance on science and technology to the people and to the state of Connecticut. Our membership is comprised of 325 of Connecticut's most esteemed scientists, physicians, and engineers elected by the membership of the Academy.

Since 1976, the Academy has completed approximately 80 studies on a variety of issues, many on behalf of the General Assembly and others for state agencies. The Academy's convening authority enables us to have access to a wide range of independent expertise from technical experts from Connecticut and across the nation to address issues of concern to Connecticut. CASE is able to provide perspectives that are not bound by organizational structure and culture. Additionally, our projects seek to provide third party independent review for verification and confirmation of proposed solutions for guidance to create better policy and law.

Members of the Academy and others from Connecticut and around the nation serve on our study committees on a pro-bono basis offering their expertise to help develop recommendations and solutions to pressing scientific and technical matters.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

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